

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

PRS-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /046 W

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R 231017Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: DEF, TC US FMS

SUBJ: FMS AGREEMENT WITH UAE

1. DEPT. AND DOD WILL RECALL THAT UAE FOREIGN MINISTRY RECENTLY TOLD US THAT SINCE UAEG RESERVATIONS WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR PROPOSED FMS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN DROPPED, WE COULD PROCEED WITH EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT. OUR NOTE WAS ACCORDINGLY DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 9. FEW DAYS AFTERWARDS, MINISTER OF STATE GHUBBASH TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT THERE WERE SOME FURTHER MINOR RESERVATIONS ABOUT WORDING OF PARA 4(A) AND THAT WE WOULD BE HEARING FROM MINISTRY AS SOON AS MATTER COULD BE DISCUSSED IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. WE NOW HAVE NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI, STATING THAT OUR TEXT IS ACCEPTABLE BUT PROPOSING FOLLOWING CHANGE TO WORDING OF PARA 4(A): FIRST SENTENCE UNCHANGED. FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSES THAT FOLLOWING LANGUAGE BE SUBSTITUTED FOR SECOND SENTENCE IN OUR TEXT:

QUOTE SUCH DOCUMENTATION SHALL BE EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES BY ITS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR BY SUCH OTHER PERSON OF OFFICIAL CAPACITY AUTHORIZED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MAY REQUEST EXECUTION OF PARTICULAR PURCHASES DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES BY THE PRESIDENT OR BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. END QUOTE.

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2. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: PROPOSED CHANGE HAS EFFECT OF TIGHTENING FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONTROL OVER PROSPECTIVE PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES UNDER AGREEMENT, CHANGE WHICH WE BELIEVE IS ALL TO THE GOOD AS FAR AS US INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED. WE ALSO SUSPECT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE REFLECTS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN UAE MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOHAMMED BIN RASHID, WHO IN SOME WAYS MOST TALENTED OF RASHID'S SONS BUT WHO IS ALSO CONSIDERED IN THIS CAPITAL AS SOMETHING OF UNGUIDED MISSILE. PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE ALSO REFLECTS FOREIGN MINISTER'S PERSONAL DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL AUTHORITY AGAINST THAT OF THE INDIVIDUAL SHEIKHDOMS. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE ACCEPT NEW SECOND SENTENCE AS PROPOSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED BY DEPT. TO CONVEY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WITH THIS CHANGE WE CONSIDER THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONCLUDED AND THE AGREEMENT IN FORCE.

STERNER

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